

SN. 09/615,243

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:009

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to further define the invention. Specifically, these claims now recite that the identifiers have priorities that indicate the processing order of the files to be processed, and that the selected records are processed according to the processing order indicated by the priorities of the identifiers. All other changes merely relate to improving their form and clarity. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12, 15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ellard (USP 5,991,758). Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ellard in view of Fisher (USP 5,563,997). Applicant traverses these rejections because these references do not disclose or teach the assigning feature set forth in independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 each call for displaying a list having records concerning files of documents, and assigning identifiers to a plurality of records selected from the records in the list. The identifiers have respective priorities indicative of the processing order of the files to be processed. This enables a plurality of documents provided with identifiers having respective priorities to be collectively processed according to the processing order.

The examiner argues that Ellard's confidence level calculating feature corresponds to the claimed priority assigning feature because Ellard uses the confidence level to display data records that meet the threshold. Ellard discloses a system/method for identifying data records from one or more databases that contain information about the same entity, and associating those data records together for easier access for that entity. Indeed, Ellard merely discloses assigning numbers, such as patient or part numbers, to all data records in one or more databases to identify

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data records that contain information about the same entity and to associates those data records together for easier access to information relating to the same entity. Ellard does not disclose or teach assigning identifiers, which have respective priorities indicative of the processing order of the files to be processed, to a plurality of records selected from the records in the list, and then processing the selected records to which the identifiers are assigned, according to the processing order indicated by the respective priorities of the identifiers.

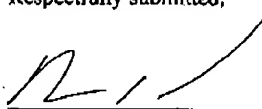
Fisher merely discloses sorting data records using indexes indicative of properties such as document name and number. Fisher does not alleviate Ellard's shortcoming identified above. Accordingly, even if the combination were deemed proper, for argument's sake, it would not have taught the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-30 patentably distinguish over the applied references and thus urges the examiner to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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